

What is claimed is:

1. A method of communicating load, comprising:  
determining a load on a first node;  
factoring the load into a session initiation protocol Q-value for the first node; and  
transmitting the Q-value to a second node.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the first node  
subscribing to a load factor exchange service in a message transmitted to the  
second node.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the second node  
confirming receipt of the subscription in a message transmitted to the first  
node.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
a third node requesting the Q-value for the first node from the second  
node; and  
the second node transmitting the Q-value for the first node to the third  
node.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the second node also transmits  
Q-values for a plurality of alternate nodes to the third node.
6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the third node utilizing  
the one of the first node and the alternate nodes having the lowest Q-value as  
an intermediate node.
7. An article of manufacture, comprising:  
a computer readable medium having stored thereon instructions which,  
when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:  
determine a load on a first node and a load on a second node;  
factor the load for at least one of the first node and the second  
node into a session initiation protocol Q-value; and

direct a transmitting node to relay information through one of the first node and the second node based on the load factor.

8. The article of manufacture of claim 7, wherein the instructions are to cause the processor to transmit the load for the first node and the load for the second node to the transmitting node in the session initiation protocol Q-value.

9. The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the transmitting node is to transmit the information to the least loaded of the first node and the second node.

10. The article of manufacture of claim 7, wherein the instructions are to cause the information to be redirected from the first node to the second node when the second node becomes less loaded than the first node.

11. The article of manufacture of claim 7, wherein load is based on at least one metric including call capacity of the first and second nodes, processing capability of the first and second nodes, network bandwidth at the first and second nodes, and network availability of the first and second nodes.

12. The article of manufacture of claim 11, wherein the metrics of the first and second nodes are weighted based on the capacity of the nodes for that metric.

13. The article of manufacture of claim 7, wherein the instructions are further to cause the processor to receive a subscription from the transmitting node and at least one second transmitting node, and wherein the load for at least one of the first node and the second node is caused to be transmitted to subscribing nodes upon request.

14. A session initiation protocol device, comprising:  
a network adaptor coupled to a network;  
a session initiation protocol load module to receive session initiation protocol load information from session initiation protocol entities on the

network through the network adaptor; and

a calculation module to provide load information for at least one of the session initiation protocol entities to a querying entity through the network adaptor.

15. The session initiation protocol device of claim 14, wherein the calculation module is furthermore to provide loads for a plurality of session initiation protocol entities to the querying entity.

16. The session initiation protocol device of claim 14, wherein the load information for the session initiation protocol entities is based on at least one metric including call capacity, processing capability, network bandwidth, and network availability.

17. The networked system of claim 14, wherein the metrics of the entities are weighted based on their capacity for that metric.

18. The networked system of claim 14, wherein the load of the session initiation protocol entity is transmitted to the querying entity as a factor in a Q-value.

19. A location service, comprising:  
a data storage device to contain a cross reference to session initiation protocol entities coupled to a network and a load factor associated with session initiation protocol entities;  
a network adaptor coupled to the network; and  
a processor coupled to the data storage device and the network adaptor.

20. The location service of claim 19, wherein the processor is to retrieve the load factor associated with at least one of the session initiation protocol entities when requested to do so by a requesting session initiation protocol entity and transmit that load information to the requesting session initiation protocol entity through the network adaptor.

21. The location service of claim 20, wherein the load factor is transmitted as a factor in a Q-value.

22. A session initiation protocol load balancing system, comprising:  
a load broker coupled to a network to gather load information from session initiation protocol entities coupled to the network and calculate a load factor for those session initiation protocol entities; and  
a location service to maintain a cross reference to addresses for the session initiation protocol entities coupled to the network and associate the addresses to the load factors obtained from the load broker for those session initiation protocol entities.

23. The session initiation protocol load balancing system of claim 22, wherein the location service is to retrieve the load factor associated with at least one of the session initiation protocol entities when requested to do so by a requesting session initiation protocol entity and transmit that load information to the requesting session initiation protocol entity.

24. The session initiation protocol load balancing system of claim 23, wherein the load factor is transmitted as a factor in a Q-value.